

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1580 without my signature.

I vetoed a similar bill last year stating that the bill ran counter to the goal of mastering English as quickly and as comprehensively as possible. I continue to believe that schools should remain focused on providing English learners with the necessary resources and support to become English proficient. As an immigrant myself, I believe strongly that learning English as quickly as possible is essential to success in this state and this country, and therefore want to provide every incentive for our system to promote that goal.

The *2006 Budget Act* reflects this commitment, and includes \$30 million to provide supplemental instructional materials for English learners in grades K-12, \$25 million to provide ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers of English learners, and an increase of \$350 million to the Economic Impact Aid Program to help close the achievement gap of English learners and economically disadvantaged students.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger